



## U.S. voters concerned about post-election violence and efforts to overturn the results: AP-NORC poll

By G.FIELDS, A.SWENSON  
and LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — American voters are approaching the presidential election with deep unease about what could follow, including the potential for political violence, attempts to overturn the election results and its broader implications for democracy, according to a new poll. The findings of the survey, conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, speak to persistent concerns about the fragility of the world's oldest democracy, nearly four years after former President Donald Trump's refusal to accept the 2020 election results inspired a mob of his supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in a violent attempt to stop the peaceful transfer of power. About 4 in 10 registered voters say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about violent attempts to overturn the results after the November election.



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Rioters loyal to President Donald Trump storm the Capitol, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

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# U.S. voters concerned about post-election violence and efforts to overturn the results: AP-NORC poll

Continued from Front

A similar share is worried about legal efforts to do so. And about 1 in 3 voters say they are "extremely" or "very" concerned about attempts by local or state election officials to stop the results from being finalized.

Relatively few voters — about one-third or less — are "not very" or "not at all" concerned about any of that happening.

Trump has continued to lie about fraud costing him reelection four years ago and is again forecasting that he can lose this time only if the election is rigged against him, a strategy he has deployed since his first run for office. His allies and the Republican National Committee, which he reshaped, have filed lawsuits around the country that are a potential prelude to post-election legal challenges should he lose.

"I thought after Jan. 6 of 2021, the GOP would have the sense to reject him as a candidate," Aostara Kaye, of Downey, California, said of Trump. "And since they didn't, I think it just emboldened him to think he can do anything, and they will still stick with him."

Many voters think Trump won't concede if he loses Trump's wide-ranging attempts to reject the will of the voters and remain in power after his 2020 loss have led to concerns that he will again fail to concede should he lose to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Nearly 9 in 10 voters said the loser of the presidential election is obligated to concede once every state has finished counting its votes and legal challenges are resolved, including about 8 in 10 Republicans. But only about one-third of voters expect Trump to accept the results and concede if he loses.

Democrats and Republicans have widely divergent views on the matter: About two-thirds of Republican voters think Trump would concede, compared to only about 1 in 10 Democrats.

The same concern does not



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump dances at a campaign rally at the Bryce Jordan Center, Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, in State College, Pa.

Associated Press

apply to Harris. Nearly 8 in 10 voters said Harris will accept the results and concede if she loses the election, including a solid majority of Republican voters.

Democrats and Republicans divided on who would weaken democracy

Members of both parties have broad concerns about how American democracy might fare depending on the outcome of the November election.

Overall, about half of voters believe Trump would weaken democracy in the U.S. "a lot" or "somewhat" if he wins, while about 4 in 10 said the same of Harris.

Not surprisingly, Americans were deeply divided along ideological lines. About 8 in 10 Republicans said another term for Trump would strengthen democracy "a lot" or "somewhat," while a similar share of Democrats said the same of a Harris presidency.

About 9 in 10 voters in each party said the opposing party's candidate would be likely to weaken democracy at least "somewhat" if elected.

Kaye, a retired health care system worker, called Trump an "existential threat to the Constitution." One prospect she said frightens her is that if Trump wins, he likely will not have the guardrails in his new administration that were in place in the last one.

Republican voter Debra Apodaca, 60, from Tucson, Arizona, said it's Harris who is a greater threat to democracy. She said President Joe Biden's administration has placed too great a priority on foreign aid and shown a lack of concern for its own people.

"Our tax dollars, we're just sending it everywhere. It's not staying here. Why aren't we taking care of America?" she said. "Why should we pay taxes if we're just sending it away?"

That lack of concern also includes the border, she said, adding that a Harris win would be "the end to the Border Patrol."

The January 6th attack on the Capitol is a dividing line. Part of what divides voters on their views of American democracy is the Jan. 6 at-

tack on the U.S. Capitol and who is to blame. Democrats and independents are much more likely than Republican voters to place "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of responsibility on Trump.

Susan Ohde, an independent voter from Chicago and a retiree from the financial sector, said she's concerned that "crazy people will buy the misinformation that they're given," leading to another such attack.

Giovanna Elizabeth Minardi of Yucaipa, California, said other issues are more important in this year's election. She said her chief concern is the economy and feels that high prices, especially in her home state, are chasing off businesses and creating a dependency on government. It's a dependency Harris wants to continue, said Minardi, a children and family services advocate.

Views about the Jan. 6 attack are not the only ones where voters split along ideological lines.

Following Trump's lead, a majority of Republicans maintain that Biden was not le-

gitimately elected. Nearly all Democrats and about 7 in 10 independents believe Biden was legitimately elected.

Other aspects of the political system are divisive too

This year's presidential campaign has highlighted one aspect of the American political system that some believe is undemocratic — the use of the Electoral College to elect the president rather than the popular vote. Trump and Harris have concentrated their campaign events and advertising in seven battleground states that represent just 18% of the country's population.

About half of voters think the possibility that a candidate could become president by winning the Electoral College but losing the popular vote is a "major problem" in U.S. elections.

As with many other issues, the question also reveals a partisan divide:

About two-thirds of Democrats say the potential for an Electoral College-popular vote split is a major problem, compared to about one-third of Republicans. □



# U.S. presses ahead with modest Mideast plans despite election uncertainty

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — With the U.S. presidential election just a week away, the Biden administration is not giving up hope for short-term deals for cease-fires between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. But U.S. officials are mindful that political uncertainty in the United States has made the sides reluctant to commit to any significant agreements before it is clear who has won the White House. In the meantime, the Middle East is uneasy about what happens next after Israel struck Iranian military targets over the weekend in retaliation for Iran's barrage of ballistic missile attacks on Oct. 1.

U.S. officials said they believe Israel's attack whose targets were coordinated with Washington will not draw an escalatory reaction from Iran. But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share sensitive diplomatic discussions, caution that nothing is certain. The Biden administration was able to persuade Israel to keep its response limited, gaining assurances it wouldn't hit nuclear or oil sites in Iran that would have escalated the conflict despite limited U.S.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, and Israel's President Isaac Herzog speak to the media in Tel Aviv, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024.

influence as Biden's term wraps up. As Israel's closest ally and a key mediator in the Middle East, the U.S. still is pressing for any movement on a truce despite letdowns in the past and little expectation of immediate breakthroughs. "I don't sense that the Israelis are feeling a huge amount of urgency," said Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "I feel like they are feeling much less urgency now

than a few months ago." U.S. efforts in Gaza As conditions, particularly in Gaza, continue to deteriorate, the administration is backing an Egyptian proposal for a two-day Gaza cease-fire that would see Hamas release a limited number of hostages and potentially open more routes for badly needed humanitarian assistance to reach the enclave, the U.S. officials say. President Joe Biden said Monday that he would join his staff in discussing the

proposal. "We need a cease-fire. We should end this war. It should end. It should end. It should end," Biden said. One of the officials said the administration would support virtually any suggestion that leads to a reduction in suffering for Palestinian civilians and the release of hostages but stressed that "we're not holding our breath." Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar last week was aimed at gauging the

region's willingness for such a deal. Officials said Blinken came away from his meetings cautiously optimistic but acknowledged that previous similar hopes have been dashed.

"What we really have to determine is whether Hamas is prepared to engage," Blinken said last week. He said the killing of Hamas military chief Yahya Sinwar helped open a window for new talks on a cease-fire proposal that has been languishing for months. To underscore U.S. support for a deal, CIA Director William Burns participated in weekend talks in Doha with senior Israeli and Qatari officials on a potential path forward. There was no immediate result, but lower-level talks are expected to continue this week.

The prospects for the success of even such a modest proposal which would fall well short of previous plans for three-phase cease-fire deal are uncertain as Hamas, despite heavy losses on the ground, has rejected calls for anything less than a full-on truce and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Hamas has yet to formally respond to the Egyptian plan, though Israel has signaled a willingness to consider the idea. □

Associated Press

# Supreme Court allows national horse racing safety rules to stay in effect, for now

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court is allowing national medication and anti-doping rules for horse racing to remain in effect while a court fight likely to wind up with the justices continues. The court on Monday kept on hold a ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that found Congress gave too much power to the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, the private entity that administers the rules. Other appellate courts have rejected similar challenges and the justices are likely to step in to resolve the conflicting rulings. The authority, backed by the Biden administration, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and others, sought an emergency order from the Su-

preme Court. Texas, as well as racetracks in the state and in neighboring Louisiana, opposed the emergency appeal. The anti-doping program, which took effect in the spring of 2023, is an attempt to centralize the drug testing of racehorses and manage the results and dole out uniform penalties to horses and trainers instead of the previous patchwork rules in the 38 racing states. The program has led to a 50% drop in horse deaths at racetracks that are participating, lawyers for the authority told the court. Meanwhile, death rates have gone up at other tracks, they wrote in their legal filing. Legislation to dismantle the new authority has been introduced in the House of Representatives but hasn't gone anywhere. □



The Supreme Court is pictured, June 30, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press



# Police say fires set at ballot boxes in Oregon and Washington are connected; 'suspect vehicle' ID'd

By **GENE JOHNSON and CLAIRE RUSH**  
**Associated Press**

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Police said Monday that a "suspect vehicle" has been identified in connection with incendiary devices that set fires to ballot drop boxes in Oregon and Washington state.

Surveillance images captured a Volvo stopping at a drop box in Portland, Oregon, just before security personnel nearby discovered a fire inside the box on Monday, Portland Police Bureau spokesman Mike Benner told a news conference.

That fire damaged three ballots inside, while officials say a fire at a drop box in nearby Vancouver, Washington, early Monday destroyed hundreds of ballots. The devices were attached to the outside of the boxes, police said.

Authorities said at a news conference in Portland that enough material from the incendiary devices was recovered to show that the two fires Monday were connected and that they were



In this image made from a video provided by KGW8, authorities investigate smoke pouring out of a ballot box on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, in Vancouver, Wash.

also connected to an Oct. 8 incident, when an incendiary device was placed at a different ballot drop box in Vancouver.

"Heartbreaking," said Greg Kimsey, the longtime elected auditor in Clark County, Washington, which includes Vancouver. "It's a direct attack on democracy."

The ballot drop boxes in Washington and Oregon

both have fire suppression systems that are designed to activate when the temperature inside reaches a certain point, coating ballots inside with a fire-suppressing powder. The system appeared to have worked in the Portland drop box, and security staffers were nearby to help put out the fire.

But for unknown reasons, the system failed to prevent

the destruction of hundreds of ballots in Vancouver, just across the Columbia River from Portland.

Vancouver is the biggest city in Washington's 3rd Congressional District, the site of what is expected to be one of the closest U.S. House races in the country, between first-term Democratic Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Republican challenger Joe Kent."I

**Associated Press**

hope the perpetrator of this reprehensible act is quickly apprehended and local and federal law enforcement have my full support in working to keep our democratic process safe and secure," Gluesenkamp Perez said in a statement.

She said she's requesting an overnight law enforcement presence posted at all ballot drop boxes in Clark County through Election Day.

"Southwest Washington cannot risk a single vote being lost to arson and political violence," her statement said.

Representatives for Kent's campaign didn't immediately return phone and email messages seeking comment.

The Portland Police Bureau said the fire there was reported at about 3:30 a.m. Multnomah County Elections Director Tim Scott said thanks to the suppressant system, only three ballots there were damaged, and his office planned to contact those voters to help them obtain replacement ballots. □

## A pizza shop owner is sentenced to 8.5 years in prison for threatening workers with deportation

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — The owner of two Boston-area pizza shops convicted of forced labor for using physical violence and threats of reprisal or deportation against employees living in the country illegally has been sentenced to more than eight years in prison.

Stavros Papantoniadis, 49, of Westwood the owner of Stash's Pizza, a Massachusetts pizzeria chain was sentenced Friday in federal court to 102 months in prison, one year of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$35,000 fine.

Papantoniadis forced or attempted to force six victims five men and one woman to work for him and comply with excessive workplace demands through violent

physical abuse; threats of violence and serious harm; and repeated threats to report the victims to immigration



Stavros Papantoniadis, owner of Stash's Pizza, a Boston sanitary grade certificate after inspection by the Health Division of the Inspectional Services Department on Nov 2, 2016, in Boston.

**Associated Press**

authorities for deportation, according to prosecutors.

In June, a jury convicted Papantoniadis of three counts of forced labor and three counts of attempted forced labor. Papantoniadis has remained in custody since his arrest in March 2023.

A lawyer for Papantoniadis said he's pursuing a new trial and an appeal.

"Although the judge saw fit to sentence him slightly beneath the guidelines, we are disappointed in the length of the sentence," Carmine Lepore said in an email. "The sentencing guidelines applicable to this case are more appropriate for human traffickers and sexual servitude defendants."

Acting United States Attor-

ney Joshua Levy said Papantoniadis was driven by greed to prey on his workers.

"Labor trafficking exploits the vulnerable through fear and intimidation, all in pursuit of the almighty buck. That is what Stavros Papantoniadis did when he violated the rights of the people working in his restaurants," Levy said.

"He deliberately hired foreign nationals who lacked authorization to work in the United States and then turned their lack of immigration status against them, threatening them with deportation and violence to keep them under his control," he added.

Papantoniadis thinly staffed his pizza shops, and deliberately hired workers without immigration status to work

behind the scenes, for 14 or more hours per day and as many as seven days per week, investigators said.

To control the undocumented workers, he made them believe that he would physically harm them or have them deported and monitored them with surveillance cameras. When Papantoniadis learned that one victim planned to quit, he choked him, causing that victim to flee the pizza shop. When another worker tried to leave and drive away from one of Papantoniadis' pizza shops, Papantoniadis chased the victim down Route 1 in Norwood, Massachusetts, and falsely reported the victim to the local police to pressure the victim to return to work at the pizza shop, prosecutors said. □



# Fitness app Strava gives away location of Biden, Trump and other leaders, French newspaper says

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — An investigation by French newspaper Le Monde found that the highly confidential movements of U.S. President Joe Biden, presidential rivals Donald Trump and Kamala Harris and other world leaders can be easily tracked online through a fitness app that their bodyguards use. But the U.S. Secret Service told the newspaper that it doesn't believe the protection it provides was in any way compromised.

Le Monde found that some U.S. Secret Service agents use the Strava fitness app, including in recent weeks after the two assassination attempts on Trump, in a video investigation released in French and in English. Strava is a fitness tracking app primarily used by runners and cyclists to record their activities and share their workouts with a community.

Le Monde also found Strava users among the security staff for French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin. In one example, Le Monde traced the Strava



U.S. President Donald Trump, right, meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sentosa Island in Singapore, on June 12, 2018.

movements of Macron's bodyguards to determine that the French leader spent a weekend in the Normandy seaside resort of Honfleur in 2021. The trip was meant to be private and wasn't listed on the president's official agenda. Le Monde said the whereabouts of Melania Trump and Jill Biden could also be pinpointed by tracking

their bodyguards' Strava profiles.

In a statement to Le Monde, the U.S. Secret Service said its staff aren't allowed to use personal electronic devices while on duty during protective assignments but "we do not prohibit an employee's personal use of social media off-duty."

"Affected personnel has been notified," it said. "We

will review this information to determine if any additional training or guidance is required."

"We do not assess that there were any impacts to protective operations or threats to any protectees," it added. Locations "are regularly disclosed as part of public schedule releases." In another example, Le Monde reported that a

U.S. Secret Service agent's Strava profile revealed the location of a hotel where Biden subsequently stayed in San Francisco for high-stakes talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2023. A few hours before Biden's arrival, the agent went jogging from the hotel, using Strava which traced his route, the newspaper found.

The newspaper's journalists say they identified 26 U.S. agents, 12 members of the French GSPR, the Security Group of the Presidency of the Republic and 6 members of the Russian FSO, or Federal Protection Service, all of them in charge of presidential security, who had public accounts on Strava and were therefore communicating their movements online, including during professional trips. Le Monde did not identify the bodyguards by name for security reasons.

It said movements trackable on Strava could lead to security breaches, especially when security agents travel in advance to places like hotels where leaders then stay and hold meetings. □

Associated Press

# Brazil fines meatpacking companies, including giant JBS, for buying illegally raised cattle

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brasilia, BRAZIL (AP)** — Brazil's environmental agency has levied \$64 million in fines against 23 meatpacking companies and their suppliers for buying and selling cattle raised illegally on deforested land in the Amazon.

The operation, dubbed Cold Meat 2, launched last week. It tracked 18,000 head of cattle raised in 100 square miles (260 square kilometers) of pasture that has been banned for commercial use due to illegal deforestation. The agents also apprehended 8,854 head of cattle found inside the restricted areas. News of the fines began emerging over the weekend.

Cattle raising is the main driver of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, with 90% of the total area cleared between 1985 and 2023 converted to pasture. That represents a total of 227,800 square miles (590,000 square kilometers), slightly larger than France. As a result, 14% of the Amazon is covered by grazing land, according to MapBiomas, a network of nongovernmental organizations that monitors land use. "We are inspecting the production chain to hold offenders accountable for acquiring products from deforestation and to ensure that crime does not pay," Jair Schmitt, chief of environmental protection at Brazil's federal environ-

mental agency, known as Ibama, told The Associated Press.

Among those fined was JBS, the world's largest meat-packing company. JBS has applied to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, a move that has faced opposition from some U.S. lawmakers and environmental nonprofits. It's not clear when the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission may make a decision on JBS' bid. The JBS fine was \$108,000 for purchasing 1,231 head of cattle, the fifth largest penalty among the fined companies.

The operation followed three months of investigation by Ibama's intelligence unit and is the latest

episode linking JBS to illegal deforestation. In December, AP revealed that it is facing lawsuits for allegedly purchasing cattle raised illegally in Jaci-Parana, a protected area in the Bra-

zilian Amazon.

In a statement, JBS denied buying cattle from embargoed areas and said it had already submitted documents to Ibama demonstrating their legal origin. □



The main entrance of the meat processing company JBS is visible in Porto Velho, Rondonia state, Brazil, July 12, 2023.

Associated Press



# Philippine ex-President Duterte says he kept a 'death squad' as mayor to kill criminals

By **JIM GOMEZ**  
**Associated Press**

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told a Senate inquiry Monday that he had maintained a "death squad" of gangsters to kill other criminals when he was mayor of a southern Philippine city.

Duterte, however, denied authorizing police to gun down thousands of suspects in a bloody crackdown on illegal drugs he had ordered as president and which is the subject of an investigation by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

Duterte, 79, attended the televised inquiry in his first public appearance since his term ended in 2022. The Senate is looking into the drug killings under Duterte, which were unprecedented in their scale in recent Philippine history.

Duterte acknowledged without elaborating that he once maintained a death squad of seven "gangsters" to deal with criminals when he was the longtime Davao city mayor, before he became president.



**Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte takes oath during a senate inquiry on the so-called war on drugs during his administration at the Philippine Senate Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, in Manila, Philippines.**

**Associated Press**

"I can make the confession now if you want," Duterte said. "I had a death squad of seven, but they were not policemen, they were also gangsters."

"I'll ask a gangster to kill somebody," Duterte said. "If you will not kill (that person), I will kill you now."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III, who

was overseeing the inquiry, and Sen. Risa Hontiveros, pressed Duterte to provide more details but the former president responded in unclear terms and said he would explain further in the next hearing.

Often cursing during the hearing, Duterte said he would take full responsibility

for the killings that happened while he was president from 2016 to 2022. But he said he never ordered his national police chiefs, who also attended the inquiry, to undertake extrajudicial killings.

"Did I ever tell you to kill any criminal?" Duterte asked his former police chiefs. They included Ronald Dela Rosa,

the current senator who first enforced Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs as his national police chief. "No, Mr. president," dela Rosa responded.

Aside from the International Criminal Court's ongoing investigation, there have been no known criminal complaints filed against Duterte in Philippine courts over the killings. "I'm puzzled why the Justice Department hasn't filed any case," Duterte said. "I've been killing people for a long time and they haven't filed any case up to now?" Former Sen. Leila de Lima, one of the most vocal critics of Duterte who once investigated the drug killings in Davao, said there was adequate evidence and witnesses of the extrajudicial killings but they were scared of testifying against Duterte when he was in power.

De Lima was arrested early on in Duterte's presidency on drug charges she said were fabricated to stop her from proceeding with her Senate investigation. She was cleared of the charges and released from more than six years of detention last year. □

# International prosecutor who charged Netanyahu vows to cooperate with sex misconduct investigation

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**  
and **MOLLY QUELL**  
**Associated Press**

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The International Criminal Court's top prosecutor has called for an internal investigation into allegations he tried to coerce a female aide into a sexual relationship and groped her.

Karim Khan's request Monday follows an investigation by The Associated Press detailing allegations made in May by two co-workers in whom the woman confided as the chief prosecutor was preparing to seek charges against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and leaders of Hamas over their actions in Gaza.

Khan has previously said there was "no truth" to the misconduct allegations and court officials told the AP they may have been made as part of an Israeli

intelligence smear campaign to discredit the court. In a social media post Monday, the British jurist complained that recent media reporting had breached

the confidentiality of the court's internal proceedings and spread "disinformation" that violated his rights as well as those of the alleged victim. Khan said he would cooperate fully with any inquiry made under the court's Independent Oversight Mechanism the same watchdog that closed an inquiry just five days after receiving the third-party complaint.

The inquiry should be "permitted to do its work without interference so that the crucial work of the Office may continue unimpeded," he said, declining further comment.

The court's watchdog previously determined no investigation was necessary, and didn't question Khan

about his behavior, when the alleged victim opted against filing a formal complaint.

People close to the woman, who still works at the court, told AP that she opted against a complaint at the time because she didn't trust the internal watchdog and has since asked the body of member-states that oversees the ICC to launch an external probe. AP pieced together details of the accusations through whistleblower documents shared with the watchdog and interviews with eight ICC officials and individuals close to the woman. All spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the allegations or fear of retaliation. □



**View of the ICC, the International Criminal Court, in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Sept. 16, 2024.**

**Associated Press**



## The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island



**(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.**

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it

was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various

renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was



also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things

come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers. □

## The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

**(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?**

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha  
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously,



after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □



## Successful Mall-O-Ween Event at Paseo Herencia



Paseo Herencia held its Halloween celebrations on Sunday October 27 with a thrilling main event, featuring an exciting dance performance by the Gucci dancers and a lively appearance by Beetlejuice, played by Addonsito Croes. Families and friends joined in costume to enjoy a night filled Trick or treat at participating stores and restaurants, prizes for best costumes, the Haunted Island Show, a Haunted House experience in the ballroom, and a festive atmosphere.

**The Halloween excitement continues through October 31, with highlights including:**

**Spooky Bar Crawl (Oct 25–31):** Sample themed drinks at participating bars and restaurants, including The Lazy Turtle, Sexy Shrimp, Che Bar, Flamingo's, TGI Fridays, Frenchie's Cafe, Fusion Cuisine, and Drunk's Denial. With each spooky cocktail earn a stamp, and three or more stamps qualify for entry in a raffle to win Paseo Herencia gift certificates.

**Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt (Oct 25–31):** Families and friends can embark on a riddle-solving, photo-taking adventure around Paseo Herencia, with fun prizes available.

**Halloween Quiz Night at TGI Fridays (Oct 30, 7–10 PM):** Trivia enthusiasts can test their Halloween knowledge for a chance to win themed prizes.

**Halloween Night Finale (Oct 31):** The celebration concludes with the Haunted Island Pirate Show on the plaza stage at 8 PM, along with a spine-tingling Haunted House Experience in the ballroom from 7–10 PM.

Paseo Herencia invites everyone to join in the Halloween spirit and make lasting memories. For more information, visit [paseoherencia.com](http://paseoherencia.com). □



## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ —** The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites.

These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches.

A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)



The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these

areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □





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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectfully honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors  
Mr. William & Mrs. Mary Scott from Albuquerque

New Mexico, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of La Cabana Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

### The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's nice weather.
- The variety of Restaurants.
- The friendly locals.
- The island is easy to navigate.
- Sightseeing and tour activities.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



## A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

### Ingredients:

4 cups of wheat flour  
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour,

omit baking powder)  
1 tsp salt  
1 tbsp sugar  
0.5 cup of melted butter  
1 cup water  
1 egg

### Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around 1/4 inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few.





## Aruba's underwater wonderland

**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating underwater spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

### Tres Trapi



Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck



Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an



area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD** — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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## Did you know about...

### Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

#### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

#### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to



look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

#### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a

regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

#### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes.

The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

#### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Showy flowers  
7 Dull pain  
11 Slow reptile  
12 Cornfield pest  
13 Bagel choice  
14 Carry  
15 Vast  
17 Really bad, in slang  
20 Declares  
23 Fire remnant  
24 Earned in quantity  
26 Airport screening org.  
27 Bullring cry  
28 Wedding words  
29 Places of worship  
31 Zodiac cat  
32 Girder metal  
33 Transmitted  
34 Blew one's top  
37 Stair  
39 Docking site  
43 Spot for laps  
44 Spiny reptile

### DOWN

- 45 Writer Rice  
46 Procrastinator's words  
1 "— a deal!"  
2 Regret  
3 Auditor's org.  
4 Pancake order  
5 Sailors' saint  
6 Spots  
7 On the go  
8 Predatory reptile  
9 Spicy  
10 She sheep  
16 Produces  
17 Bulb units  
18 Useful skill  
19 Colorful reptile  
21 Make broader  
22 Nose, slangily  
24 Bakery buys  
25 Pub pint  
30 Folks  
33 Walk with pride  
35 Like dimes  
36 "Othello" villain  
37 Hotel amenity  
38 Cargo unit  
40 Cove  
41 Low digit  
42 Informer

T	E	R	R	A	R	A	Z	O	R
O	C	E	A	N	A	N	O	D	E
T	H	I	N	S	K	I	N	N	E
S	O	N	W	I	N	E	S	S	
			G	E	N	E	S		
J	A	F	A	R	R	H	Y	M	E
A	D	A	M			R	E	A	L
B	O	X	E	S	F	U	N	D	S
			S	P	R	I	G		
S	O	P	I	O	N	S	K	I	
T	H	I	C	K	W	I	T	T	E
E	N	S	U	E		S	W	E	L
M	O	A	T	S		H	O	P	P

### Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15			16				
17	18	19				20			21	22
23				24	25					
26				27				28		
29			30					31		
32							33			
		34			35	36				
37	38				39			40	41	42
43					44					
45					46					

4-10

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-10

### CRYPTOQUOTE

OP'CP NKKXL OGPMGPC OP

JYQFP KC QKM, LK OP AVEGM

YL OPXX JYQFP. — HYIYQPLP

ICKSPCZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OUR SPRING HAS COME AT LAST WITH THE SOFT LAUGHTER OF APRIL SUNS AND SHADOW OF APRIL SHOWERS. — BYRON CALDWELL SMITH

## SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

### King Classic Sudoku

		7	6	4		2		3
		2		5				6
6			2	3		4	7	8
			5			8	3	4
3	2		1					
	6	5						2
				1	3	5	8	
		8	9		6			
1		3	8				4	9

Difficulty: ★★

10/29

### Answer to previous puzzle

2	9	3	6	5	4	1	8	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	3	5	2
7	5	1	2	3	8	6	4	9
1	7	4	8	9	6	2	3	5
9	3	6	7	2	5	8	1	4
5	8	2	4	1	3	7	9	6
8	2	5	3	4	7	9	6	1
6	1	9	5	8	2	4	7	3
3	4	7	9	6	1	5	2	8

Difficulty: ★

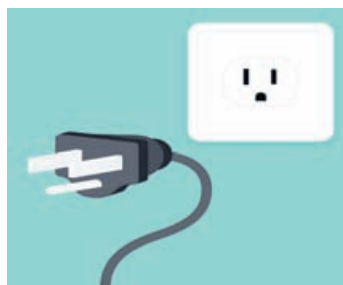
10/28

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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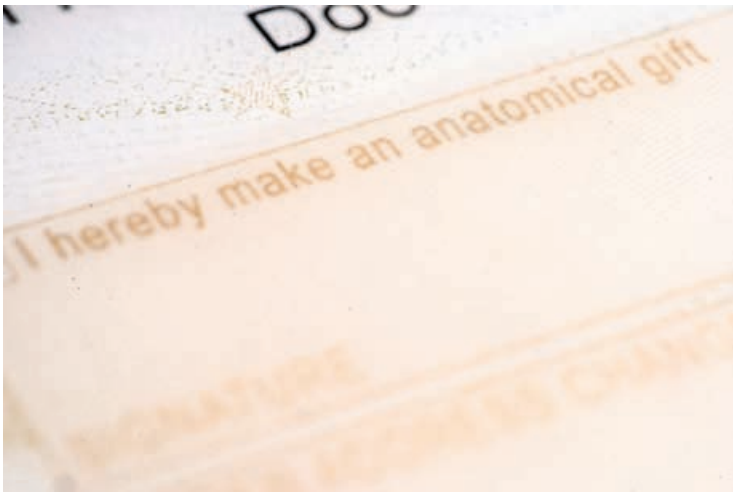
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24/7



# People opt out of organ donation programs after reports of a man mistakenly declared dead



The organ donor entry on the back of a driver license is photographed in New York on Friday, Oct. 25, 2024.

By Lauran Neergaard

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Transplant experts are seeing a spike in people revoking organ donor registrations, their confidence shaken by reports that organs were nearly retrieved from a Kentucky man mistakenly declared dead.

It happened in 2021 and while details are murky surgery was avoided and the man is still alive. But donor registries in the U.S. and even across the Atlantic are being impacted after the case was publicized recently. A drop in donations could cost the lives of people awaiting a transplant.

"Organ donation is based on public trust," said Dorrie Dils, president of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, or OPOs. When eroded, "it takes years to re-

gain."

Only doctors caring for patients can determine if they're dead -- the law blocks anyone involved with organ donation or transplant. The allegations raise questions about how doctors make that determination and what's supposed to happen if anyone sees a reason for doubt.

Key is ensuring "all doctors are doing the right tests and doing them well," said Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, a Georgetown University bioethicist. An alleged near miss in Kentucky

The 2021 case first came to light in a congressional hearing last month, with unconfirmed details in later media reports -- allegations that a man who'd been declared dead days earlier woke up on the way to the operating room for organ-donation

surgery and that there was initial reluctance to realize it. The federal agency that regulates the U.S. transplant system is investigating, and the Kentucky attorney general's office said it is "reviewing the facts to identify an appropriate response."

A coalition of OPOs and other donation groups is urging that findings be made public quickly and the public withhold judgment until then, saying any deviation from the industry's strict standards would be "entirely unacceptable."

The number of people opting out of organ donation has spiked. □

Associated Press.

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# Apple launches the iPhone into the AI era with free software update

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**  
AP Technology Writer

Apple is releasing a free software update that will inject its first dose of artificial intelligence into its iPhone 16 lineup as the trendsetting company tries to catch up with technology's latest craze.

The upgrade to the iOS 18 operating system on Monday arrives more than a month after four iPhone 16 models equipped with the special computer chip needed to power the AI features went on sale at prices ranging from \$800 to \$1,200.

Last year's premium models the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max also possess a processor that will enable the AI technology after the software update is installed.

Recent versions of Apple's iPad and Mac computer also can be updated with the software.

Countries outside the U.S. won't be getting the AI software for their iPhones until next year at a date still to be determined. Apple spent the past five weeks testing the AI software among an audience of iPhone owners who signed up to help the company fine tune the technology.

The AI infusion is supposed to transform Apple's often bumbling virtual assistant Siri into a more conversational, versatile and colorful companion whose pres-



The Apple iPhone 16 is displayed at the Apple Fifth Avenue store on Sept. 20, 2024, in New York. Associated Press

ence will be denoted by a glowing light that circles the iPhone's screen as requests are being handled. While Apple is promising Siri will be able to perform more tasks and be less prone to becoming confused, it won't be able to interact with other apps installed on the iPhone until another software update comes out at a still-unspecified date.

Other AI features included in this software update will handle a variety of writing and proofreading tasks, summarize the content of emails and other documents. The AI also will provide a variety of editing tools to alter the appear-

ance of photos and make it easier to find old pictures. Other AI tricks still to come in future software updates will include the ability to create customized emojis on the fly or conjure other fanciful imagery upon request.

Apple also plans to eventually enable its AI suite to get a helping hand from OpenAI's ChatGPT when users want it.

Most of the AI features Apple introduced Monday are already available on Android-powered smartphones that Samsung and Google released earlier this year.

In an effort to distinguish its approach from the early

leaders in AI, the iPhone's suite of new technology is being marketed as "Apple Intelligence."

Apple is also promising its AI features will do a far better job protecting the privacy of iPhone owners by either running the technology on device or corralled in a fortress-like data center when some requests have to be processed remotely. Because most iPhones currently in use around the world don't have the computer chip needed for Apple's AI, the technology is expected to drive huge demand for the new models during the holiday season and into next year, too. That's the main reason

why Apple's stock price has soared 18% since the Cupertino, California, pre-viewed its AI strategy at a conference in early June. The run-up has increased Apple's market value by about \$500 billion, catapulting it closer to becoming the first U.S. company to be worth \$4 trillion.

Apple will give investors their first glimpse at how the iPhone 16 is faring Thursday when the company posts quarterly financial information for the July-September quarter a period that includes the first few days the new models were on sale.

Demand for the high-end iPhone 15 models ticked upward as prices for them fell and the excitement surrounding Apple's entrance into the AI market ramped up, according to an assessment of the smartphone market during the most recent quarter by the research firm International Data Corp.

Apple's iPhone shipments rose 3.5 percent from the same time last year to 56 million worldwide during the July-September period, second only to Samsung, according to IDC. The question now is whether Apple's gradual release of more AI will cause owners of older iPhones to splurge on the new models during the holidays, "future-proofing their purchases for the long term," said IDC analyst Nabila Popal. □

## American Airlines tests boarding technology that audibly shames line cutters

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**  
AP Business Writers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — American Airlines is testing a new technology at three airports across the country during the boarding process that aims to cut down on passengers who try to cut the line.

The technology, which is being tested at Albuquerque International Sunport Airport in New Mexico, Tucson International Airport in Arizona and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Crystal City, Vir-

ginia, alerts gate agents with an audible sound if a passenger tries to scan a ticket ahead of their assigned group.

"The new technology is designed to ensure customers receive the benefits of priority boarding with ease and helps improve the boarding experience by providing greater visibility into boarding progress for our team," said American Airlines in a statement emailed to The Associated Press.

American Airlines said that

a gate agent politely lets the customer know they're unable to accept the pass and asks the customer to rejoin the line when their boarding group is called. In some instances where a customer may be able to board out of order, like when traveling with a companion of higher status, the agent has a quick way to override the alert and accept the pass, American Airlines said in the statement. Although the technology is just in a trial phase, the airline said it has been

pleased with the results so far. □



An American Airlines jetliner rumbles down a runway at Denver International Airport, Jan. 16, 2024, in Denver. Associated Press



# Jordan's belief in Reddick pays off, and 23XI team will have a shot at NASCAR title

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP)** — The hardest hit that Tyler Reddick took at Homestead-Miami Speedway wasn't from a bounce into the wall or from another driver crashing into him.

It was from his boss.

Michael Jordan is 6-foot-6. Reddick might be 5-foot-6, tops. When Jordan comes at him full speed and wraps his massive arms around Reddick, the driver is going to take a bit of a jolt. That's exactly what happened Sunday, after Reddick won at Homestead and clinched one of the four spots in NASCAR's winner-take-all title deciding race at Phoenix in two weeks.

"To be able to reward him it's a true honor," Reddick said. "It was really cool to see how happy he was. We're all very happy about it."

For good reason. Winning still drives Jordan more than anything, even at 61. Building a massive multi-billion-dollar business empire everything from his famous shoes to clothes to steaks to cars to golf courses and plenty more didn't turn off Jordan's competitive fires. Neither,



**Car owner Michael Jordan watches from the pits during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla., Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

obviously, did winning six NBA championships, going into the Basketball Hall of Fame and being widely considered as the greatest player ever. Jordan always wants to win, whether he's golfing against PGA pros at his tricked-out course where drinks get delivered by drones in South Florida or sitting on the wall of pit road watching his 23XI racing team.

"Yeah, baby! Yes!" Jordan

shouted when he got to Reddick in the moments after Sunday's win.

"Good job, kid! Man, good job."

From Jordan, there is no higher praise.

There are some similarities between Jordan and Reddick, their wild disparity in height notwithstanding. Jordan was notorious for playing well when he was sick.

Reddick clinched the regular-season championship

this year at Darlington, a race where he was ravaged by a virus and drove while fearing that he would get sick in his helmet or worse.

"I think it's just a combination of talent and resilience," crew chief Billy Scott said. "When things aren't going right, I sometimes think he's in his element. He seems to deal with that really well, stay calm and focused. He has that much talent to fall

back on to where even if he has to overcome some sort of disadvantage, whether it's being sick, tire disadvantage, he's been able to." Sunday's win locked Reddick into one of the four spots in the winner-take-all finale. If anyone wondered if the 23XI team was distracted by off-the-track matters specifically Jordan being part of a lawsuit against NASCAR over revenue sharing, something that could have massive effects on the series going forward those questions were asked and answered.

As a player, Jordan rarely if ever let off-the-court issues affect his play. As an owner, the same rules evidently apply to him and his team.

"We're here to win races. I think everyone at 23XI is focused on that," said Dave Rogers, the competition director for the 23XI team.

"I think any team that competes for a championship or wins a championship has to deal with distractions. There's so many roadblocks in the way, so much noise, so many distractions. I don't care who it is, what it is, if you are going to win a championship, you have to fight through adversity. That's just part of it. □

## Royals catcher Salvador Perez wins MLB's Clemente Award for philanthropy

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kansas City Royals catcher Salvador Perez has been named the winner of Major League Baseball's Roberto Clemente Award for character, community involvement and philanthropy.

The award was to be presented to the nine-time All-Star and 2015 World Series MVP before Game 3 of the World Series on Monday night.

Perez and his family distribute bags of food and kitchen supplies to 2,000 homes each winter in the neediest parts of his hometown of Valencia, Venezuela, directly impacting more than 10,000 families over the past decade. He has

a youth baseball league there, providing equipment for the kids and financial support for their families.

The 34-year-old Perez has paid for dozens of surgeries for kids with cleft lips, given more than 1,000 toys to children's hospitals and supported police officers. He regularly travels to Colombia to assist the Carlos Fortuna Foundation in helping adults be the best parents they can be, and he crossed the border on foot to get there when strict travel guidelines were in place during the COVID-19 shutdown. In the United States, Perez has partnered with organizations fighting against Lou

Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and he works with Kansas-based Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer. Perez made a \$1 million foundational donation to the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy, one of MLB's 11 youth academies, matching the largest ever for the academy. Clemente, a Hall of Fame outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates, died in a plane crash on Dec. 31, 1972, while delivering aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. Perez batted .271 with 27 homers and 104 RBIs in 158 games this season for the Royals, who made the playoffs for the first time since their only World Series



**Kansas City Royals' Salvador Perez watches from the dugout during the fifth inning in Game 4 of an American League Division baseball playoff series against the New York Yankees Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.**

**Associated Press**

title in 2015. Perez is a five-time Gold Glove winner and .267 career hitter

in 1,552 games, all with the Royals since his big league debut in 2011. □



# Analysis: Eagles, Bills, Commanders make big statements in Week 8

By **ROB MAADDI**  
AP Pro Football Writer

It was a statement Sunday for Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles, Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills, and Jayden Daniels and the Washington Commanders. The Eagles (5-2) and Bills (6-2) cruised to double-digit road wins. The Commanders (6-2) needed a miracle on the final play.

Each team proved something in a tough game.

The Eagles had won two in a row since coming off a bye that followed an embarrassing loss to Tampa Bay in Week 4 but the feeling in Philadelphia was overwhelmingly negative. Critics questioned Hurts, blasted coach Nick Sirianni and talked like the team was going into Cincinnati 2-4 instead of 4-2.

After Joe Burrow led the Bengals on an opening touchdown drive that lasted 10:04, the boos resonated from Eagles fans sitting on their couches and watching in sports bars.

But Vic Fangio's defense settled down. Then Hurts, Saquon Barkley, A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith took over. Hurts tossed a perfect 45-yard TD pass to Smith and ran for three scores to help Philadelphia rout Cincinnati 37-17. He finished with 236 yards and a 132.5 passer rating, the third straight game he's topped 119.

Folks weren't giving the Ea-



**Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels (5) leaves the field after an 18-15 win over the Chicago Bears in an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, in Landover, Md.**

Associated Press

gles much credit for beating the Browns and routing the Giants the past two weeks. Even though the Bengals (3-5) have a losing record, this was a convincing victory.

"I think today was a great team win, a great showing as a team," Hurts said. "When you play like that on defense and you're able to stop an offense capable of playing at a high level and with the star players that they have, that's a great job."

The Eagles host Jacksonville (2-6) and former coach Doug Pederson next week before an NFC East showdown against Washington

(6-2) in Philadelphia on Thursday night Nov. 14.

The Bills also hadn't received much credit for their wins this season because of the quality of their opponents. Entering the game in Seattle, Buffalo's five wins came against teams that had a combined record of 10-23 while the two losses were to clubs that were 10-4.

Facing a Seahawks team that was coming off an impressive road win in Atlanta and was sitting in first place in the NFC West, the Bills came out fast and didn't let up on the way to a 31-10 win. Allen threw for 283 yards and

two scores, overcoming his first interception of the season. He tossed a 2-yard TD pass to rookie Keon Coleman on the first drive and the Bills dominated the Seahawks (4-4) from start to finish.

"I think you look at it from all three phases, I think everybody went out there, knew their job and executed at a high level offense, defense, special teams," Allen said. "Still got a lot to clean up."

The Bills have a comfortable 3 1/2-game lead in the AFC East. They'll host Miami (2-5) next week and visit Indianapolis (4-4) before facing

the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (7-0) on Nov. 17. The playoff rematch against Kansas City will be another opportunity to silence any doubters.

Daniels was uncertain to start against Chicago because of a rib injury. He played through it and threw a 52-yard Hail Mary touchdown on the final play to beat the Bears 18-15.

Daniels scrambled around for almost 13 seconds before launching a deep pass that was tipped backward into the waiting arms of Noah Brown for the victory.

In the NFL's sixth matchup of rookie quarterbacks taken 1-2 in the draft, Daniels outshined top overall pick Caleb Williams. He threw for 326 yards and a score and ran for 52.

Williams was just 10 of 24 for 131 yards for the Bears (5-3) while Daniels displayed why he's the favorite for the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year award.

"We're blessed to have 5 leading this team," Brown said of Daniels. "The things he can do are special — just even that last play. Keeping his composure, fighting like hell to get the ball off and throwing a hell of a ball. I wouldn't want to play with any other quarterback. I'm glad to have him."

Another team again failed to make a positive statement in Week 8. □

## Stephanie White out as Connecticut Sun coach, the seventh job to open in WNBA since end of season



**Indiana Fever head coach Christie Sides reacts during Game 2 of a first-round WNBA basketball playoff series against the Connecticut Sun, Sept. 25, 2024, in Uncasville, Conn.**

Associated Press

**UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP)** — Stephanie White and the Connecticut Sun have parted ways after she led the team to the WNBA semifinals both of her seasons as coach, the team announced Monday.

The Sun finished third in the regular season with a 28-12 record, swept Indiana in the first round of the playoffs and lost a five-game semifinal series to Minnesota.

"We want to thank Stephanie for her time in Connecticut and her commitment to our organization over the past two seasons," Sun president Jen Rizzotti said.

"We wish her the best in her future endeavors."

The Sun are the seventh WNBA team to make a coaching change, and the announcement came a day after the Indiana Fever fired Christie Sides.

White had said on a zoom with reporters two weeks ago that she was dealing with

a family emergency and was not thinking about her coaching future.

White led the Sun to a franchise-best 27-13 record in her first season and was named 2023 WNBA Coach of the Year and Associated Press Coach of the Year.

White previously was an assistant and head coach with the Indiana Fever. She was on the staff of the Fever's 2012 WNBA championship team, and as head coach she led the team to the finals in 2015. She was head coach at Vanderbilt from 2016-21.

White played five seasons in the WNBA after her college career at Purdue. The Indiana native played the last four of her five WNBA seasons with the Fever.

White also has worked in television as a college basketball analyst for ESPN and the Big Ten Network. □